

# NHC

## 2019

*The  
'Granddaddy' of  
hickory events*

Newsletter #2, February

### ♪ 'On Wisconsin, On Wisconsin!' ♪

...is the title of one of the most famous collegiate fight songs in America, played by high school marching bands in every state. July 18-20 is the date for the Wisconsin Gutter Golf Challenge, one of the three 'Gutter Majors,' conducted by Jim Koss, Greg Smith, Steve Simer and their crew. It is a perfect event to show off the gutter skills that you honed to perfection at the "National." If you are interested in competing contact Greg or Jim, or ask them for all the details at The Mound.

Greg (hickorysmith500@gmail.com)  
or Jim (wallywinsagain@gmail.com)

*Two NHC Champions: Seth Lomison who would soon be crowned in 2018 and Billy Wardwell, the 2016 Champ, the last to have won at Oakhurst.*



*Greg Smith &  
Lyle Graham*

#### NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

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## 'MBD' Gets 1<sup>ST</sup> Entry Honors

The coveted honors bestowed on the first entry to be received for this year's NHC goes to one of our perennial favorites, Marsalis Brooks Davis, Liberty, North Carolina. Playing in his 8th NHC, Marsalis is a product of the First Tee of the Triad and is currently a member of his high school golf team, the Dudley HS Mustangs in Greensboro. Over the eight years we've known Marsalis he has probably doubled in height as well as driving distance. He'll be accompanied by his mother, Karla, who has been an exemplary parent in supporting her son's passion for golf, both hickory and modern.



Next entries received proved to be a 4-way tie for second place between Jim Koss, Billy Wardwell, 'Kilty' Ahlschwede, and James Kaiser. Wardwell is the 2016 NHC Champion. *(Continued on reverse)*

*Billy Wardwell  
Turners Falls, MA  
4th NHC*

*Rob Ahlschwede  
Olympic, WA  
21st NHC*

*James Kaiser  
Louisville, KY  
6th NHC*



## Continuing the 2019 NHC Lineup...

Rob “Kilty” Ahlschwede has played in 21 straight NHCs and received his nickname when he wore the first kilt in NHC competition in 2001. James Kaiser was the NHC Reserve Division Champion in 2018 at the Mound. ‘Gentleman’ Jim Koss is back after other family plans prevented him from competing last year. James is one of the founders of the Wisconsin Gutter Golf Challenge. The photos shown below include Mike Stevens, three-time NHC Champion, Tom Johnson 2014 NHC Champion, Bern Bernacki a former Reserve Division Champion and Russ Ravert who will be in his 22nd NHC — perfect attendance. We have run out of room this month to show more entries but their photos will be in next month’s newsletter.

*Jim Koss  
Green Bay, WI  
4th NHC*

*Chris Gilgun  
Uxbridge, MA  
3rd NHC*

*Dave Brown  
Omaha, NE  
6th NHC*

*Bern Bernacki  
Pittsburgh, PA  
10th NHC*

*Dave Gamet  
Kansas City, MO  
8th NHC*

*Mike Stevens  
Tampa, FL  
22nd NHC*

*Tom Johnson  
Tallmadge, OH  
21st NHC*

*Russ Ravert  
Columbia, MO  
22nd NHC*



*Russ and Ross. Playing partners Dr. Russ Ravert and Ross Snellings, Esq. amble down a fairway together. Both contestants have played in all 21 previous NHCs. Ross started a tradition about 20 years ago of wearing a boldly striped shirt, his trademark.*

## Final Round Group Pairings

In the past the first rounds were played by three-some groups that were assembled by the Czar. First year (Rookie) players were always paired with two experienced players. Second day rounds were played by groups assembled loosely by score, highest to lowest irrespective to division so that the final threesome usually produced the Championship winner. This year we will observe the declining scores principle but final day threesomes will be comprised of players from the same division, wherever possible and practical. Also, if travel plans dictate a player’s early departure from Miamisburg advise the Czar so the player can have an early tee time.



*The very dapper Tom Johnson, former NHC Champion and Director of the Foxburg Hickory Championship. His August gutter ball event will be promoted in the next NHC Newsletter.*